

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 26, 2013

**ACCESSING FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES GRANTS THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

In 1981, the California State Legislature recognized that a high percentage of foster youth were working substantially below grade level, were being retained at least one year at the same grade level, and were becoming school dropouts. In response, the Legislature declared that the instruction, counseling, tutoring, and provision of related services for foster youth be a State priority and mandated the Foster Youth Services (FYS) Programs. These programs provide services to all foster youth residing in foster homes, foster family agencies, court specified placements, licensed children's institutions, and juvenile detention facilities.

The goals of the FYS Programs are to:

1. Identify the educational, physical, social, and emotional needs of foster youth;
2. Determine gaps in service provision and provide educational and social support services, either through direct service provision or referral to collaborative partners;
3. Identify inadequacies in the completion and timely transfer of health and education records to facilitate appropriate and stable care and educational placements;
4. Improve student academic achievement, reduce incidence of juvenile delinquency, and reduce rates of student truancy/dropouts; and
5. Provide advocacy to promote the education related best interests of foster youth throughout California.

Outcome data for the FYS Core Programs shows that 69 percent of foster youth served in school year 2010–11 gained more than one month of academic growth per month of tutoring received.

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**MOTION**

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Given the high number of foster youth served in Los Angeles County compared with the rest of the State, the Los Angeles County Office of Education should maximize grants and funding opportunities available through the California Department of Education FYS Programs.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County Office of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services, to:

1. Review all current Los Angeles County Office of Education grants from the California Department of Education Foster Youth Services Programs; and
2. Identify additional grants and funding sources available through this Foster Youth Services program with a report back in 45 days on current status and potential opportunities for Los Angeles County.

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